GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:556
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
STRENGTHENING OF AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES
Chandrappan Shri C.K.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the infrastructural requirements of the Agricultural Universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has identified the areas which need to be strengthened; and

(d) if so, the steps so far taken to prioritise those areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.556 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14/05/2007 REGARDING `STRENGTHENING OF AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES`

(a) Agricultural Education being a state subject, strengthening infrastructure in State Agricultural Universities is mainly the responsibility of State Governments. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) extends only limited financial assistance for the purpose to address quality and relevance of agricultural education and to provide academic excellence in agricultural universities.

(b) A statement showing financial assistance provided by the ICAR during the last five years mainly for modernization and strengthening of academic blocks, labs, farms, library, experimental units, hostels, technology cells, examination cell, new girls hostels, international hostels; establishment of niche areas of excellence centres, experiential learning units; purchase of state of art equipments, faculty updating programmes and student related activities like fellowships, contingency for practicals, textbooks, placement cell, counseling, teaching aids, study tours and other amenities state-wise / university-wise is annexed.

Also, the Government of India provides special grant to agricultural universities. The details of such special grant provided to agricultural universities is as under: -

1. Special grant of Rs. 68 crores announced by the Prime Minister for establishment of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu.

2. Special grant of Rs. 100 crore to Punjab Agricultural University by the Ministry of Finance for an institution of excellence to a distinguished institution acknowledgment of its pioneering contribution to the green revolution.

3. Special grant of Rs. 50 crore to recognize excellence to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore by the Finance Minister.

4. Special grant of Rs. 50 crore to recognize excellence to Gobind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar by the Finance Minister.

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) The ICAR extends financial assistance to agricultural universities in priority areas identified through the processes like annual Vice Chancellors` Conference, IX Plan High Power Review Committee, IV Dean`s Committee Report and Planning Commission approach paper on agricultural research and education.